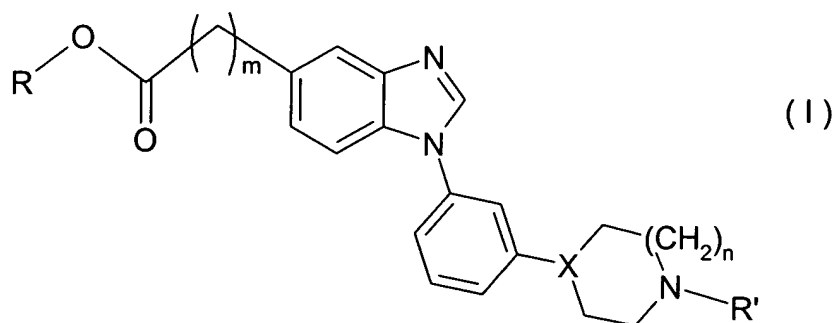


AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Original) A compound of general formula I:



or an N-oxide thereof, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, wherein

R represents alkyl, hydroxyalkyl, alkoxyalkyl, R^aR^bN -alkyl, R^aR^bN -CO-alkyl, or phenyl-alkyl;

wherein R^a and R^b independently of each other represents hydrogen or alkyl;

R' represents alkoxyalkyl, alkoxyalkenyl, alkoxyalkynyl, alkylcarbonylalkyl, alkenyl, or alkynyl;

m is 0 or 1;

n is 1 or 2;

X represents N or CH.

2. (Original) The compound of claim 1, wherein

n is 1 and X represents N.

3. (Original) The compound of claim 1, wherein

n is 1 and X represents CH.

4. (Currently Amended) The compound of claim 1 ~~any one of claims 1-3~~, wherein

R represents alkyl, hydroxyalkyl, or alkoxyalkyl.

5. (Currently Amended) The compound of claim 1 ~~any one of claims 1-3~~, wherein

R represents R^aR^bN-alkyl, R^aR^bN-CO-alkyl, or phenyl-alkyl;

wherein R^a and R^b independently of each other represents hydrogen, methyl or ethyl.

6. (Currently Amended) The compound of claim 1 ~~any one of claims 1-5~~, wherein

R' represents alkoxyalkyl.

7. (Currently Amended) The compound of claim 1 ~~any one of claims 1-5~~, wherein

R' represents alkylcarbonylalkyl, alkenyl, or alkynyl.

8. (Original) The compound of claim 1, which is

2-Methoxyethyl 1-(3-(4-(ethoxyethyl)-1-piperazinyl)-phenyl)-benzimidazole-5-carboxylate

(1a);

2-Hydroxyethyl 1-(3-(4-(ethoxyethyl)-1-piperazinyl)-phenyl)-benzimidazole-5-carboxylate

(1b);

n-Butyl 1-(3-(4-(ethoxyethyl)-1-piperazinyl)-phenyl)-benzimidazole-5-carboxylate

(1c);

iso-Butyl 1-(3-(4-(ethoxyethyl)-1-piperazinyl)-phenyl)-benzimidazole-5-carboxylate (**1d**);

2-Methoxyethyl 1-(3-(4-(methoxyethyl)-1-piperazinyl)-phenyl)-benzimidazole-5-carboxylate (**1e**);

2-Hydroxyethyl 1-(3-(4-(methoxyethyl)-1-piperazinyl)-phenyl)-benzimidazole-5-carboxylate (**1f**);

n-Butyl 1-(3-(4-(methoxyethyl)-1-piperazinyl)-phenyl)-benzimidazole-5-carboxylate (**1g**);

iso-Butyl 1-(3-(4-(methoxyethyl)-1-piperazinyl)-phenyl)-benzimidazole-5-carboxylate (**1h**);

5-(methoxycarbonylmethyl) 1-(3-(4-(methoxyethyl)-1-piperazinyl)-phenyl)-benzimidazole (**1i**);

5-(2-hydroxyethoxycarbonylmethyl) 1-(3-(4-(methoxyethyl)-1-piperazinyl)-phenyl)-benzimidazole (**1j**);

2-Methoxyethyl 1-(3-(4-(propargyl)-1-piperazinyl)-phenyl)-benzimidazole-5-carboxylate (**8a**);

2-Methoxyethyl 1-(3-(4-(allyl)-1-piperazinyl)-phenyl)-benzimidazole-5-carboxylate (**8b**);

2-Methoxyethyl 1-(3-(4-(2-oxo-propyl)-1-piperazinyl)-phenyl)-benzimidazole-5-carboxylate (**8c**);

2-Methoxyethyl 1-(3-(1-methoxyethyl-4-piperidinyl)-phenyl)-benzimidazole-5-carboxylate (**8d**);

2-Hydroxyethyl 1-(3-(4-(propargyl)-1-piperazinyl)-phenyl)-benzimidazole-5-carboxylate (**8e**);

Benzyl 1-(3-(4-(ethoxyethyl)-1-piperazinyl)-phenyl)-benzimidazole-5-carboxylate (**10a**);
Methylcarbamoylmethyl 1-(3-(4-(ethoxyethyl)-1-piperazinyl)-phenyl)-benzimidazole-5-carboxylate (**10b**);
Ethylcarbamoylmethyl 1-(3-(4-(ethoxyethyl)-1-piperazinyl)-phenyl)-benzimidazole-5-carboxylate (**10c**);
2-Dimethylaminoethyl 1-(3-(4-(ethoxyethyl)-1-piperazinyl)-phenyl)-benzimidazole-5-carboxylate (**10d**);
Benzyl 1-(3-(4-(methoxyethyl)-1-piperazinyl)-phenyl)-benzimidazole-5-carboxylate (**10e**);
Methylcarbamoylmethyl 1-(3-(4-(methoxyethyl)-1-piperazinyl)-phenyl)-benzimidazole-5-carboxylate (**10f**);
Ethylcarbamoylmethyl 1-(3-(4-(methoxyethyl)-1-piperazinyl)-phenyl)-benzimidazole-5-carboxylate (**10g**);
2-Dimethylaminoethyl 1-(3-(4-(methoxyethyl)-1-piperazinyl)-phenyl)-benzimidazole-5-carboxylate (**10h**);
or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

9. (Currently Amended) A pharmaceutical composition containing a therapeutically effective amount of a compound according to claim 1 ~~any one of claims 1-8~~, or an N-oxide thereof, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, together with at least one pharmaceutically acceptable carrier, excipient or diluent.

10.(Currently Amended) A method for treatment, prevention or alleviation of a disease or a disorder or a condition of a living animal body, including a human, which disorder, disease or condition is responsive to modulation of the GABA receptor complex, which method comprises the step of administering to such a living animal body in need thereof a therapeutically effective amount of a compound according to any claim 1, or an N-oxide thereof, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.~~The use of a compound according to any one of claims 1-8, or an N-oxide thereof, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, for the manufacture of a medicament for the treatment, prevention or alleviation of a disease or a disorder or a condition of a mammal, including a human, which disease, disorder or condition is responsive to modulation of the GABA receptor complex.~~

11.(Currently Amended) The method~~use~~ according to claim 10, wherein the medicament is for inducing anaesthesia, pre-anaesthesia, muscle relaxation, or sedation, or for treatment, prevention or alleviation of fewer cramps or status epilepticus.

Claim 12 (Cancelled)